

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the present application.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 7 and 10-12 would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-9 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Botti et al.* (US 5,621,357). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection.

Claim 1 is a differential circuit capable of receiving "a pair of differential input signals." In contrast, Figure 4 of *Botti* depicts a class AB output amplifier stage (col. 1, lines 65-66) that has an IN terminal and a ground terminal as inputs (*see also* Figure 1). In other words, *Botti*'s class AB output amplifier, as an entire circuit, does not receive "differential input signals," as claimed.

Claim 1 recites "a reference voltage generation circuit for providing a reference voltage signal to said summing circuit, wherein said reference voltage generation circuit is a differential amplifier." On page 4 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the claimed reference voltage generation circuit is disclosed by *Botti* as  $Q_{pref}$  and  $Q_{nref}$ . However, according to *Botti*,  $V_{ref}(Q_{pf})$  and  $V_{ref}(Q_{nf})$  are two separate reference voltage generators (col. 4, lines 46-49; col. 2, lines 40-41). Reference voltage generator  $V_{ref}(Q_{pf})$  includes a transistor  $Q_{pref}$  and reference voltage generator  $V_{ref}(Q_{nf})$  includes a transistor  $Q_{nref}$ . It is clear that neither  $Q_{pref}$  nor  $Q_{nref}$  constitutes a differential amplifier, as claimed. Because the claimed invention includes novel features that are not taught or suggested by *Botti*, the § 102 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent Claim 1 along with its dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any addition fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of the present application, please charge it against IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,



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